

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 IGA-02 PM-04 L-03 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02

PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 HEW-06 IO-11 SCSE-00

SCA-01 /064 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LKILDAY:HB

APPROVED BY PHA/FDRC - G.H. SHELDON

----- 105583

O 071413Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 030912

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: SWEL, GT, CO

SUBJECT: DISASTER RELIEF FOR GUATEMALA

REFS: USDAO BOGOTA 0622007 FEB. 76

1. REGRET THAT USG UNABLE TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT RELIEF SUPPLIES COLLECTED BY GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR OR OTHERS. YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT TO AMBASSADOR THAT COST OF SPECIAL TRANSPORT OF MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES FREQUENTLY EXCEEDS GREATLY THE VALUE OF THESE SUPPLIES, AND THAT PROVISION OF USAF TRANSPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO GUATEMALAN RELIEF FROM POINTS OUTSIDE U.S. IS NOT BEST USE OF OUR LIMITED DISASTER RELIEF RESOURCES. COMMERCIAL AIR SHIPMENT MAY BE A BETTER ALTERNATIVE. FOR ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVE, YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT THAT TO THIS POINT USG HAS PROVIDED FOR GUATEMALAN RELIEF ONE 100 BED MILITARY FIELD HOSPITAL, 600 TENTS, 12 3,000 GALLON PORTABLE WATER TANKS, ASSORTED MEDICINES AND MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT, A UNCLASSIFIED

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DISASTER SURVEY TEAM AND OTHER PERSONNEL EXPERIENCED IN

DISASTER RELIEF. WE HAVE ALSO APPROVED ASSIGNMENT OF EIGHT CH-47 HELICOPTERS, AND ARE ARRANGING FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF AFFLICTED AREA.

2. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR NOT REPEAT NOT PROVIDED AIRLIFT OF DONATIONS COLLECTED BY U.S. CITIZENS, SINCE WE CONSIDER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE TRANSPORT OF SUCH DONATIONS TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DONORS. IN THE U.S. WE ARE REPEATEDLY URGING THAT COLLECTIONS ONLY OF MONEY BE STARTED UNTIL OFFICIAL REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIED HIGH PRIORITY MATERIEL ARE RECEIVED. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, AIR TRANSPORTATION, EARTHQUAKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE030912
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LKILDAY:HB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760047-1071
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760270/aaaacjzt.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISASTER RELIEF FOR GUATEMALA
TAGS: SWEL, GT, CO, US
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006